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regarded the annexation of any portion of Canada as likely to be, within his lifetime, within the sphere of practical politics. There are Americans with other views of course, and perhaps the present attitude of New England business men toward the subject of Canadian reciprocity is connected with growing opinions about the further possibility; but to the majority of us the subject is at most one for humorous bravado toward our Canadian neighbors, or for purely speculative discussion.

No country needs self-knowledge more than America. I have indicated these inevitable lines of negative criticism of the book, not because the most important things to be said about it are adverse, but because I welcome it as an invaluable addition to our apparatus for self-inspection. Its judgments are so much more flattering, on the whole, than judicial Americans would or could pass upon themselves, that a certain consistency will force them to discount such items as those specified, before they will feel at liberty to take the benefit of its analysis. Having recognized these limitations, I am free to say that the book ought to go into the list that every intelligent American should read. After all, large-minded men will find enough, not only between but in the lines, indicative of our rawness, and our faults, and our dangers, in every department of life, to prove that the author is as discriminating as he is generous.

ALBION W. SMALL.

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*Histoire de la France contemporaine (1871-1900).* Par GABRIEL HANOTAUX. Tome I, "Le gouvernement de M. Thiers." Paris: Combet. Pp. xi + 639; portraits. Fr. 7.50.

M. GABRIEL HANOTAUX, who belongs to the French Academy, has undertaken a contemporary history of France from February, 1871, to the end of 1900. This volume treats of the end of the Franco-German war, with the government of M. Thiers, the negotiations for peace, the Commune, the constitutional crisis, the debates of the National Assembly, and the liberation of the territory. It ends with May 24, 1873.

The author, a diplomatist and formerly minister of foreign affairs, was able by reason of the positions he occupied to obtain unpublished documents on that period of French history. He possessed such documents concerning both the inner and the outer affairs of France. This work is more a political and diplomatic than a general history of France. As it is, it is a most interesting book,

because it abounds in hitherto unpublished notes throwing light on the administration of various politicians. But it leaves in the shadow the economic, literary, and scientific life of the nation. The questions of the budget and loans are but very briefly touched upon. Nothing whatever is said of the conditions of life of the workingmen, the peasants, and the bourgeoisie. It is a political history and nothing more. As such it is good. One clearly perceives the desire for impartiality of the author. But his efforts are vain. When he writes about the Commune, he cannot help showing his sympathy for M. Thiers and the Versaillais. The whole work is a panegyric of M. Thiers. He appears in this book as a great politician and a great patriot. We cannot subscribe, however, to the conclusion at which M. Hanotaux arrives, because he entirely omits to mention the personal motives of the acts of M. Thiers, which were very clever indeed, but quite shameless.

The book of M. Hanotaux is certainly a good contribution to the contemporary political history of France, but it does not constitute the definite work which one may read who wishes to know well the social and political life of France from 1871 to 1873.

A. AND H. HAMON.

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*La Commune vécue.* Par GASTON DA COSTA. Tome I, "18 mars—28 mai 1871." Paris: Librairie Quentin. Pp. xvi + 474. Fr. 3.50.

M. DA COSTA took part in the Commune. He was very young then and holding an office in it. He relates what he saw and heard, either during the events themselves or in the prisons and the bagnios. He questioned others, also witnesses to this tragedy. He had in his hands unpublished records, manuscript memoirs, and official documents. He is able, therefore, to state precisely some little-known facts, and to present some others quite unknown, but of great importance. He discusses, besides, the works written before him treating of the Commune. M. Da Costa's work, of which the first volume alone is issued so far, shows a noble effort toward impartiality. And he would have completely succeeded if he had put in it less passion and had refrained from using certain qualifications and certain appreciations which are too violent. He forgot that the men, whoever they be, are always inevitably determined to act as they do. The author follows but imperfectly the chronological order of events. Thus, in